

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 COME-00 TRSE-00

STR-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 /049 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3223

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DEPT PASS USDA ELECTRONICALLY FOR FAS/FCA/LIVESTOCK/
ESCS/POPE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP, EAGR, UR

SUBJECT: USSR LIVESTOCK PERFORMANCE, SOCIALIZED SECTOR,
JANUARY-MAY 1978

1. EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA REPORTS THE FOLLOWING LIVE-
STOCK PRODUCTION/PROCUREMENT DATA FOR COLLECTIVE AND
STATE FARMS, JANUARY-MAY 1978:

A. PRODUCTION OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS, STATE AND COLLEC-
TIVE FARMS (000 METRIC TONS):

-	-	-	JAN-MAY	AS PERCENT	
-	-	-	1978	OF JAN-MAY	
-	-	-	-	1977	
MEAT PRODUCTION (LIVE WT.)	5,922	106			
- OF WHICH: BEEF	- 3,787	105			
- SWINE	- 1,511	105			
- SHEEP/GOATS	153	96			
- POULTRY	- 471	119			

WHOLE MILK PRODUCTION 26,722 99.95

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- AVERAGE/COW (KGS) - 968 98

EGG PRODUCTION (MILLION PIECES) 17,206 107

- AVERAGE/BIRD (PIECES) - 84 100

B. PROCUREMENT OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS, STATE AND COLLEC-
TIVE FARMS AND OTHER STATE ENTERPRISES (000 METRIC TONS):

- - - JAN-MAY AS PERCENT OF
- - - 1978 JAN-MAY 1977

MEAT (LIVE WEIGHT)	5,685	-	106
MILK	-	-	21,863
EGGS (MILLION PIECES)	16,326	-	108

2. ARTICLE NOTES THAT (COLLECTIVE AND STATE) MEAT PRODUCTION (LIVE WT.) WAS 314,000 TONS ABOVE THE JAN-MAY 1977 LEVEL, AND THAT EGGS WERE UP BY A LITTLE MORE THAN A MILLION. MILK PRODUCTION WAS VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED. AVERAGE JAN-MAY SLAUGHTER WEIGHTS FOR CATTLE INCREASED FROM 354 KGS. (1977) TO 371 KGS. (1978), AND FOR PIGS FROM 101 KGS. TO 104 KGS.

3. PROCUREMENT OF MEAT PRODUCTS FROM STATE AND COLLECTIVE FARMS AND OTHER STATE ENTERPRISES WAS REPORTED TO HAVE INCREASED BY 312,000 TONS (LIVE WT.), EGGS WERE UP BY 1.180 MILLION (PIECES).

4. ARTICLE NOTES THAT PRODUCTION OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS ALSO INCREASED IN PRIVATE SECTOR, AND THAT STATE PROCUREMENT OF PRIVATELY-RAISED MEAT INCREASED BY 15 PERCENT WHILE EGG PURCHASES WERE UP 6 PERCENT.

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5. STATE AND COLLECTIVE LIVESTOCK NUMBERS AS OF MAY 1 WERE REPORTEDLY UP BY THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS, WHEN COMPARED WITH A YEAR AGO (000 HEAD): CATTLE - 1,916 (INCLUDING 622 COWS); PIGS - 4,493; SHEEP/GOATS - 1,218.

6. USSR-US SECRETARIAT PUTS JUNE 1 NUMBERS ON COLLECTIVE AND STATE FARMS AND INTERFARM COMPLEXES AT 92.5 MILLION CATTLE (INCLUDING 29.3 MILLION COWS), 55.9 MILLION PIGS, 150.2 MILLION SHEEP AND GOATS, AND 650.1 MILLION BIRDS.

7. COMMENT: LITTLE OF CERTAINTY CAN BE IMPUTED FROM THIS ARTICLE AS TO FINAL OFFICIAL 1978 MEAT PRODUCTION STATISTICS. POSITIVE FACTORS ARE THE INCREASED SLAUGHTER WEIGHTS AND THE HIGHER ANIMAL INVENTORIES (AND ALTHOUGH NOT MENTIONED, THE OVERALL FEED SITUATION). MOREOVER, STATE MEAT SUPPLIES ARE APPARENTLY BEING AUGMENTED BY A 15 PERCENT INCREASE IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT FROM PRIVATE PRODUCTION. SHOULD THIS CONTINUE THROUGH DECEMBER, IT WOULD MEAN AN ADDITIONAL 100,000 TONS FLOWING INTO STATE DISTRIBUTION CHANNELS.

8. OUTLOOK FOR OVERALL 1978 MEAT PRODUCTION, HOWEVER, REMAINS BLURRED. PEAK SLAUGHTER PERIOD IS STILL SEVERAL MONTHS AWAY. (SUCH OUTPUT THROUGH MAY IS ONLY ABOUT ONE THIRD OF RECENT ANNUAL PRODUCTION). WE ALSO CONTINUE SKEPTICAL OVER THE VALIDITY OF LAST YEAR'S ANNOUNCED MEAT OUTPUT. REGARDING THE LATTER, OUR CALCULATIONS, BASED ON PUBLISHED STATE PRODUCTION/PROCUREMENT DATA, IMPLY THAT UNPROCURED PRIVATE PRODUCTION HAD TO HAVE RISEN SUBSTANTIALLY -- BY 9 PERCENT OVER 1975 AND 1976 LEVELS -- IN ORDER FOR THE OVERALL PRODUCTION FIGURE TO HAVE REACHED 14.8. IN FACT, HAD NOT 1976 FIGURES BEEN REVISED IN LATE 1977, THE INCREASE WOULD HAVE HAD TO HAVE BEEN 16 PERCENT. GIVEN REPORTED INVENTORIES AND NORMAL PRODUCTION/PROCUREMENT RELATION-
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SHIPS, WE DOUBT THAT THIS ACTUALLY HAPPENED. A MORE

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PLAUSIBLE EXPLANATION WAS THE NEED FOR STATISTICIANS TO STAY ABREAST OF BREZHNEV'S NOVEMBER ANNOUNCEMENT THAT 1977 PRODUCTION WOULD BE "NEAR TO 15 MILLION TONS." WHAT THIS ALL IMPLIES IS THAT IF STATISTICIANS RETURN TO "MORE HONEST" WAYS THIS YEAR, WE MIGHT SEE A SMALLER INCREMENTAL INCREASE IN TOTAL PRODUCTION THAN WOULD BE INDICATED BY ABOVE REPORTED ENHANCED STATE PRODUCTION/PROCUREMENT DATA. IT IS, OF COURSE, THE PRIVATE SECTOR COMPONENT OF TOTAL PRODUCTION WHICH IS

MOST READILY ADJUSTABLE AND MOST SPECIFICALLY THE
UNPROCURED PORTION THEREOF.

9. MILK FIGURES PRESENTED IN ARTICLE ARE ALSO INTERESTING
DUE TO LOWER PRODUCTIVITY OF COWS THIS YEAR THAN LAST.
WE CAN ONLY HYPOTHEZIZE THAT THIS IS DUE MAINLY TO
INFERIOR FODDER CONDITIONS IN SOME AREAS, RESULTING
FROM DROUGHT (LAST SUMMER), A LATE SPRING, OR FURTHER
WITHDRAWAL OF CARBOHYDRATE FEEDS FROM DAIRY SECTOR DUE
TO NEED FOR THESE SUPPLIES IN MEAT PRODUCTION.

10. TABLE ON WHICH ABOVE CALCULATIONS BASED BEING
POUCHED. MATLOCK

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